



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

Volume 19, No. 6 -- Report of the December 6-7, 2011, Regular Meetings

COMMENTS FROM DAVID KAREM, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR

As you will see in the article below, the Kentucky Board of Education gave final approval to several procedural regulations for the new state assessment and accountability system at the Dec. 7 meeting. Among these is 703 KAR 5:070, Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability System.



During the course of the review of 703 KAR 5:070, the board received several communications from educators and parents expressing concerns about the removal of accommodations for a reader during the state reading comprehension test and use of a calculator during non-calculator sections of the state mathematics test. The board wants to emphasize that it approved this regulation for the following reasons:

- These changes align Kentucky's accommodation policies with those used at the national level by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Not aligning Kentucky's policies with those used nationally would call into question the validity of the state's reading and mathematics test results.
- Schools and districts must increase their efforts to move students with disabilities toward independence in reading comprehension and mathematical fluency in order for them to be more successful in their postsecondary and/or career choices.
- Increased training must be offered to educators to support them in moving these students toward independence in reading comprehension and mathematical fluency.

The board understands and empathizes with the concerns that have been expressed about these changes but feels that our students with disabilities deserve be able to achieve at their highest potential.

PROCEDURAL REGULATIONS FOR NEW STATE ASSESSMENT APPROVED

At its December 7 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the following regulations related to assessment procedures:

- 703 KAR 5:070, Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability Programs (Final)
- 703 KAR 5:240, Accountability Definitions and Procedures (Final)
- 703 KAR 5:140, Requirements for school and district report cards (Final)
- Repeal of assessment and accountability regulations being replaced by 703 KAR 5:240 (Final):
 - 703 KAR 5:002, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:001, Assessment and accountability definitions
 - 703 KAR 5:021, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:020, The formula for determining school Accountability
 - 703 KAR 5:041, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:040, Statewide Assessment and Accountability Program; relating accountability to A1 schools and A2-A6 programs
 - 703 KAR 5:051, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:050, Statewide Assessment and Accountability Program; school building appeal of performance judgments
 - 703 KAR 5:061, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:060, Interim assessment and accountability process
 - 703 KAR 5:131, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:130, School district accountability
 - 703 KAR 5:161, Repeal of 703 KAR 5:160, Commonwealth Accountability Testing System administration procedures

703 KAR 5:070 was amended primarily to clarify what accommodations from the classroom may be appropriately moved into the testing situation without negatively impacting the construct being measured. One of the key changes was discontinuation of the use of a reader as an accommodation during the state assessment reading test due to the fact that it measures reading ability and not listening ability. Additionally, discontinuation of the use of a calculator as an accommodation on non-calculator sections of the state assessment mathematics test was another key change due to the fact that these sections measure mathematical fluency. These and other changes will align Kentucky's accommodation policies with those at the national level used by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Not aligning Kentucky's policies with those used nationally calls into question the validity of the state's reading and mathematics test results.

Kentucky Board of Education members asked department staff to get the message out that approval of these changes means all schools and districts must increase their efforts to move students with disabilities toward independence in reading comprehension and mathematical fluency. Additionally, the board stressed that training to support teachers in moving these students toward independence must occur.

703 KAR 5:240 is a new regulation that provides procedures that govern how school and student data are reported in the new accountability model and guidance on student participation in testing. 704 KAR 5:140 revised the elements to be included in the school and district report cards to be limited to data required by state and federal legislation. Finally, seven existing regulations are being repealed because they do not match the requirements of the new accountability system and are being replaced by 703 KAR 5:240.

For more information on these regulations, contact Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256 or via e-mail at ken.draut@education.ky.gov.

704 KAR 5:070, COMMON KINDERGARTEN ENTRY SCREENER APPROVED

Final approval of 704 KAR 5:070 was given at the December 7 session to implement a common kindergarten entry screener. This regulation resulted from a recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood and work in cooperation with the Early Childhood Advisory Council. The common screener will provide information regarding each student's readiness for learning and success in kindergarten.

For more information on 703 KAR 5:070, contact Felicia Smith at (502) 564-9850 or via e-mail at Felicia.smith@education.ky.gov.

DIGITAL LEARNING REPORT RELEASED

The *Digital Learning 2020* report was publically released at the December 7 board meeting and addresses one recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Transforming Education in Kentucky: to make better use of technology to improve teaching and learning and implement policies to enhance and expand virtual and blended learning, including funding options to ensure equitable access to students across the Commonwealth. A two-month planning process involving surveys, interviews and focus groups resulted in 11 recommendations found in the report.

A number of areas of policy to be addressed are provided in the report including access to quality digital learning opportunities, issues related to the funding formula for Kentucky schools, how to determine quality providers and how to handle oversight. The full report can be seen by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/Users/spalmer/December%202011%20Digital%20Learning%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

For more information on the *Digital Learning 2020* report, contact David Cook at (502) 564-4201 or via e-mail at david.cook@education.ky.gov.

DR. SAMUEL ROBINSON AND DR. JOHNNIE GRISSOM AWARDS PRESENTED

The Kentucky Board of Education presented the annual Dr. Samuel Robinson Award to the late Robert Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. The award was accepted by Sexton's wife, Pam. Since 2004, the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award has been conferred on an individual or groups in Kentucky for outstanding leadership, commitment and service in promoting equity and opportunity to learn at high levels for all Kentucky students.

In their nomination letter, Cindy Heine and Albert Smith, Jr. of the Prichard Committee noted that Sexton was a champion for Kentucky's children. "Bob never ran for political office. He didn't invent a new machine, captain a financial empire or run a giant corporation. We honor him

as a social entrepreneur. He tackled the most important challenge of our time, which is how to help Kentucky kids become competitive in a knowledge economy.”

Kentucky Board of Education Chair David Karem presented the award. “Bob Sexton’s entire career was focused on improving education in Kentucky at all levels,” said Karem. “He brought education leaders together to hammer out policy and strategy issues on which the groups could agree and then promoted them with policymakers. Over the years, he generated bipartisan support for legislative initiatives that helped to move Kentucky’s education system forward.”

Additionally, Kathleen Reutman Bryant received the third annual Dr. Johnnie Grissom Award (Strive for Achievement Through Instructional Equity) from the Kentucky Board of Education. Bryant is executive director of Student/Community Services for the Boone County school district. She was nominated by Karen Cheser, Boone County’s assistant superintendent for Learning Support Services. “There are few educators in Kentucky today as passionate about helping all children as Kathleen Reutman Bryant,” said Cheser in her nomination letter, “and none as tirelessly and quietly persistent in working as an advocate for their needs.”

Kentucky Board of Education Chair David Karem presented the award. “In her current position, Kathy goes above and beyond in many ways, such as finding resources for the growing number of homeless students; ensuring that limited funds are spent on the neediest students through Title I; and championing the rights of the youngest students, even before they come to school,” Karem said.

The Dr. Johnnie Grissom Award is presented annually to an individual or group with outstanding accomplishments to help all students achieve at high levels through instructional equity and to closing the achievement gap. The award was established to honor the work and dedication of the late long-time Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) employee Johnnie Grissom, who served as an associate commissioner.

For more information on these awards, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the October 5, 2011, meeting
- Request for Support of the Environmental Literacy Plan Update
- Request from the Fayette County Board of Education for waiver of the timeline requirements for the leadership assessment set forth in 703 KAR 5:180, Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) and approval of the waiver for other districts in similar circumstances
- New District Facility Plans: Barren County and Science Hill Independent School Districts
- 2011-2012 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- Request for Waiver of 703 KAR 5:060 Section 6(2) from the Ft. Thomas Independent School District
- School Facilities Construction – Facility Unmet Needs Report

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- Legislative Agenda for the 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly
- New Restraint and Seclusion Regulation
- 704 KAR 4:020, School Health Services Regulation
- 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage High School Interscholastic Athletics and Revisions in Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Bylaws
- KHSAA Annual Reporting Requirements as required by 702 KAR 7:065
- KDE Employment Report

KBE MEETING DATES

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February 1, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 4, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 6, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 8-9, 2012	KBE Retreat meeting & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 10, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 5, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For questions on meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via e-mail at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the December 7, 2011, regular meeting, conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Advisor, at (502) 564-3141.

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